

Application No. 10/785,547
Amendment dated June 19, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of June 6, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have reviewed and considered the Final Office Action mailed on June 6, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 14, and 22 are amended, claim 2 is canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1 and 3-23 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 14 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Heck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,097,548).

In the interest of furthering prosecution of the present case, Applicant's independent claims 1, 14, and 22 have been amended to include the elements and limitations of claim 2. The Office Action objected to dependent claim 2, but indicated that that claim would be allowable if amended to include all the limitations of its rejected base claim 1. As such, Applicant has cancelled dependent claim 2 and incorporated its allowable subject matter into independent claim 1.

Similarly, Applicant has amended independent claims 14 and 22 to include the elements and limitations of allowable claim 2. As such, Applicant believes independent claims 14 and 22 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection of independent claims 1, 14, and 22, as well as those claims which depend therefrom.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21 and 23 are allowed. Claims 2-13 and 15-20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 2-13, 15-20, and 21 and 23.

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Conclusion

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment made with this Office Action, to Deposit Account Number 500326.

In light of all the foregoing, believing that all things raised in Examiner's June 6, 2006 Final Office Action have been addressed, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior rejections and objections, as well as allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issue. If the Examiner would care to discuss any remaining matters by phone, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 210.255.6788.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicants

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